



Self-Represented Litigation Network

Basic Interview Formats

Self-Represented Litigant

And

Stakeholder Interviews

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**Basic Interview Format
Self-Represented Litigant**

1. Interview Number (do not record name)_____

2. Date _____

3. What type of case brought you to the courthouse today?

- _____ Traffic
- _____ Criminal
- _____ General civil
- _____ Divorce, child custody, visitation or support
- _____ Domestic violence
- _____ Juvenile
- _____ Probate
- _____ Small claims
- _____ Other: _____

4. What is/was your role in the case?

- _____ Petitioner/plaintiff
- _____ Respondent/defendant
- _____ Other

5. What is the status of the case?

6. If the case is completed, how did you do in terms of the outcome?

7. How long did the case take/has the case taken so far?

8. How important is this case to you in your daily life?

9. Why are you representing yourself?

- ☐ I spoke to a lawyer and got enough help to continue by myself
- ☐ My case is not complicated enough to need a lawyer
- ☐ A lawyer would slow down the case too much
- ☐ I don't trust lawyers
- ☐ I cannot afford a lawyer
- ☐ I don't want to spend the money for a lawyer
- ☐ I don't know how to find or hire a lawyer
- ☐ Other

10. What sources of information did you use/have you used as you prepared for this case? How helpful was each source?

Information Source	Helpfulness
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid lawyer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Free lawyer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court program to assist self-represented persons	
<input type="checkbox"/> Legal aid services agency (such as Legal Aid, Legal Services, or Disability Law Center)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Paralegal/ Notario	
<input type="checkbox"/> Friend or relative	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Law library	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court clerk	
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet	
<input type="checkbox"/> Court website	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> No one	

11. What aspect of the court process was most *helpful* to you during your case?

12. What aspect of the court process was most *frustrating* to you during your case?

13. What could the court do to improve your experience?

14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the court?

Basic Interview Format Stakeholder

1. Name _____

2. Organization represented _____

3. Date _____

4. Telephone Number _____

5. What types of cases are you routinely involved in?

- _____ Traffic
- _____ Criminal
- _____ General civil
- _____ Divorce, child custody, visitation or support
- _____ Domestic violence
- _____ Juvenile
- _____ Probate
- _____ Small claims
- _____ Other: _____

6. What is your role in these cases?

- _____ Judge
- _____ Court staff (role _____)
- _____ Attorney (nature of representation _____)
- _____ Librarian (organization _____)
- _____ Representative of public or community organization (_____)
- _____ Elected official (_____)

7. What is your perspective on self-represented litigants in the court?

8. If you interact with self-represented litigants regularly, what aspect of dealing with self-represented litigants is most *frustrating* to you?

9. If you interact with self-represented litigants regularly, what aspect of dealing with self-represented litigants is most *gratifying* to you?

10. From your perspective, what are the three most significant problems that self-represented litigants encounter in the court?

11. From your perspective, what are the three most significant problems that the court encounters in dealing with self-represented litigants?

12. What more could the court do to meet the needs of self-represented litigants or to reduce their impact on the court?

13. If you do not work for the court, what could your organization do to help meet the needs of self-represented litigants or to reduce their impact on the court?

14. Do you have any additional comments or suggestions for the court?
